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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,244	10/31/2003	Takahiro Onishi	SHO-0021	9034

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EXAMINER	
HSU, RYAN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,244	ONISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan Hsu	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 April 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 3-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 3-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the amendments filed on 4/16/07, claims 1, 3-7 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 8-15 have been added to the instant application. Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in the current application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quest et al. (WO/00/74010 A1) and further in view of Burckhartt et al. (US 5,596,711).

Regarding claims 1, 4, 6, 8-11, 13 and 15, Quest teaches a gaming machine comprising: a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon (*see display [9] of Fig. 1 and the related description thereof*); and a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device (*ie: a winning event or occurrence*) (*see pg. 8: ln 2-pg. 10: ln 15*). Additionally, Quest's game machine is equipped with an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs (*see pg. 5: ln 1-21*). Quest's machine is enabled to provide information concerning the abnormality occurrence on the games display a plural times or at least until the problem is corrected but is silent with respect to the stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state (*see pg. 4: ln 5-22*).

In a related computing patent, Burckhartt et al. teaches of a computer failure recovery and alert system that allows an operator to interact and use a diagnostics program with a computing device when an error or system failure occurs (*see col. 7: ln 30-col. 10: ln 56*). Additionally, Burckhartt et al. constantly updates its computing system of the state in which the restoration work of an abnormality (*ie: ASR flags*) (*see Fig. 3 and the related description thereof*) or lapse of a predetermined time. Furthermore, Burckhartt teaches a computing recovery system that teaches an abnormality occurrence history storing device for storing a predetermined history of the information concerning with the abnormality wherein the abnormality notification device changes a notifying mode of the information based on the predetermined history of the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device (*see col. 7: ln 30-col. 8: ln 42 and ASR flags of Fig. 3 and the related description thereof*). Additionally, Burkhartt teaches the incorporation of a diagnostic device so that an operator may receive the error messages from the system and information on the restoration procedure in order to quickly correct the system failure (*see col. 12: ln 22-col. 13: ln 7*). The diagnostic programs inherently would provide information that allowed the operator with information such as error messages and restoration procedure messages or else the program would be useless in aiding the operator to fix the device. One would be motivated to incorporate the features of Burckhartt with that of Quest to look for teachings in the computing arts of system recovery systems. Since all modern electronic gaming machines are computing devices with specialized peripheral devices if the computing portion of the gaming device were to fail one would look towards implementations in the computing arts to solve the error problems. Burckhartt teaches a diagnostic program and an effective system recovery system that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the computing device of Quest in order to improve the error notification and correction system of a gaming machine. However, Quest and Burckhartt are silent with respect to a first and second display device set up in a configuration wherein the second display device is directly in front of the first display device.

Regarding claim 3, Quest teaches a gaming machine that repeatedly notifies the information. However, Quest does not implicitly express an abnormality notification means which notifies information concerning with the abnormality notification repeatedly notifying the information. Although, Quest lacks in specifically describing an abnormality notification repeatedly, the ability to present an error code message or abnormality notification several times does not an unexpected result as a repeated message does not actually produce a different result then was presented previously from the ability to present it once. Therefore it would have been a simple matter of design choice for an ordinary person skilled in the art and would be a simple matter of design choice to be made by a programmer of the machine.

Regarding claims 5 and 12, Quest teaches the abnormality notification device to notify predetermined information concerning with the abnormality based on a predetermined operation (*ie: error codes or diagnostic information*) (*see pg. 5: ln 1-21*).

Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quest et al. and Burckhartt et al. as applied to claims above, and further in view of Loose et al. (US EP 1,260,928).

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Quest teaches a gaming machine comprising: a game result display device for displaying a game result thereon (*see display [9] of Fig. 1 and the related*

description thereof); and a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result displaying device (*ie: a winning event or occurrence*) (*see pg. 8: ln 2-pg. 10: ln 15*). Additionally, Quest's game machine is equipped with an abnormality notification device for notifying an abnormality occurrence when an abnormality occurs (*see pg. 5: ln 1-21*). Quest's machine is enabled to provide information concerning the abnormality occurrence on the games display a plural times or at least until the problem is corrected but is silent with respect to the stages of restoration work from an abnormal state to a normal state (*see pg. 4: ln 5-22*).

In a related computing patent, Burckhartt et al. teaches of a computer failure recovery and alert system that allows an operator to interact and use a diagnostics program with a computing device when an error or system failure occurs (*see col. 7: ln 30-col. 10: ln 56*). Additionally, Burckhartt et al. constantly updates its computing system of the state in which the restoration work of an abnormality (*ie: ASR flags*) (*see Fig. 3 and the related description thereof*) or lapse of a predetermined time. Furthermore, Burkhartt teaches a computing recovery system that teaches an abnormality occurrence history storing device for storing a predetermined history of the information concerning with the abnormality wherein the abnormality notification device changes a notifying mode of the information based on the predetermined history of the information stored in the abnormality occurrence history storing device (*see col. 7: ln 30-col. 8: ln 42 and.ASR flags of Fig. 3 and the related description thereof*). One would be motivated to incorporate the features of Burckhartt with that of Quest to look for teachings in the computing arts of system recovery systems. Since all modern electronic gaming machines are computing devices with specialized peripheral devices if the computing portion of the gaming device were

to fail one would look towards implementations in the computing arts to solve the error problems. Burckhartt teaches a diagnostic program and an effective system recovery system that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate into the computing device of Quest in order to improve the error notification and correction system of a gaming machine. However, Quest and Burckhartt are silent with respect to a first and second display device set up in a configuration wherein the second display device is directly in front of the first display device.

Loose et al., an analogous gaming patent, teaches the implementation of a second display device in front of a variably display device in order to produce a superimposed image on the reels or to display graphics such as payout values, a pay table, and instructional information (*see Fig. 2a, 5-6 and the related description thereof*). One would be motivated to combine the display teachings of Loose with the machine of Quest in order to make a visually stimulating experience for the player (*see paragraph [0004]*). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the display apparatus of Loose with Quest in order to create a game machine that had a first and second display device which is arranged in front of the each other when viewed from a front side of the game machine such that it would display an abnormality notification information to a user.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims filed on 4/16/07 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The incorporation of the limitations from canceled claim 2 with respect the claims and the change from "means for" to "device for"

modified the scope that required at the very least further consideration and/or a new search. Therefore the new grounds of rejection were necessary to better encompass the change required by the claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Suzuki et al. (US 4,984,239) - Automatic Verification System for Maintenance/Diagnosis Facility in Computer System.

Takemoto et al. (US 5,472,195) - Display System at a Game Machine Island.

Liebergot et al. (US 4,233,682) – Fault Detection and Isolation System.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Hsu whose telephone number is (571)272-7148. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 :00-17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571)272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RH
July 3, 2007

John Hotaling
Primary Examiner